

THE GATEWAY

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FIND A BETTER WAY Students across the globe have been protesting war in Iraq. In Prague, students marched across the famed Charles Bridge, photographed by U of A exchange student Bill Wu.

A 'political tourist' judges the federal New Democrat convention

Actions of NDP leader Layton make good on his platform: part one in a two part series

CAITLIN CRAWSHAW
News Writer

Waiting for the streetcar on a cold Friday morning, I am surrounded by the throngs of serious Torontonian subbanites on their way to work.

With a dazed expression and giant luggage, I look like yet another ridiculous tourist, but I'm off to the National Trade Centre, bright-eyed and bush-tailed on a frosty Canadian morn, as one of a limited number of delegates at the New Democratic Party (NDP) leadership convention. I'm not just a tourist—I'm a political tourist, I tell myself.

For the next three days, delegates will rub shoulders with NDP icons like Svend Robinson and Alexa McDonough, popular media figures, political hacks and excessive amounts of orange and blue campaign material.

Most importantly, the party will

select its new leader, in a leadership race pitting six of the party's best against each other.

I have only been an NDP member for a mere two months, after careful consideration and considerable reluctance to declare a political affiliation. But despite my initial hesitation to join the NDP, the dedication and sincerity shown at this convention left me more hopeful and less skeptical about politics than before.

"I think [Layton would] bring a lot of hope and strength to the party. His vision is of a party that's an activist party that reaches out to people across the country."

SVEND ROBINSON,
VANCOUVER NDP MP

In the registration lineup, convention-goers buy their credentials for more than a nominal fee. As a student, it costs me nearly \$100 to be

either an observer or a delegate. But this is a fabulous deal when you learn that non-student delegates are paying \$400 for the same privilege.

Delegates are able to vote for a candidate and sit closer to the stage, while observers are relegated to grandstands at the back of the hall, dwarfed by the giant media stages.

In the delegates area inside the giant convention hall, I'm only a table away from Svend Robinson, the outspoken Vancouver New Democrat MP. Like a pre-teen eying a Backstreet Boy, I watch from a distance, but I can't restrain myself: I ask Mr. Robinson why he is supporting Jack Layton, the Toronto city councillor and the predicted victor of the leadership race.

His answer is eloquent and immediate. "I think he's bringing a lot of hope and strength to the party, his vision is of a party that's an activist party, that reaches out to people across the country," he says. Robinson emphasizes Layton's interest in youth, which is not surprising given the party's large youth wing.

But I wonder about the authenticity of Layton and the party. As a person from a culture of political apathy and cynicism, I am an eternal skeptic.

PLEASE SEE NDPCONVENTION • PAGE 2

Applications to U of A increase 39 per cent

KRISTINE OWRAM
Associate News Editor

Affier reports of a 64 per cent U of A application increase as of the first week of January, that number has deflated to 39 per cent in January's third week. Nevertheless, the number represents a staggering increase considering the University's ability to increase enrollment by only one per cent for the 2003/04 school year.

While there is a good chance that students are just applying earlier this year than in the past and numbers will quickly drop off, these figures still surprised the Registrar's Office, according to Louise Taylor, Acting Associate Registrar and Director of Admissions. The University has received nearly 9500 applications as of 23 January, up from last year's figure of 6760 for 24 January, 2002.

Taylor cited several factors that may be causing students to apply early this year, including development of a convenient online application system. So far this year, 75 per cent of applicants have applied via the Internet, while 39 per cent applied online last year.

"Over the last three years, applications via the web have become very popular," said Taylor. "It certainly speeds up the process, as students don't have to wait for information to be sent back and forth through the mail. We've been constantly improving and upgrading web services, and students are very supportive of this."

"More Albertan students are planning on staying here as it's going to be so hard to get into Ontario institutions."

LOUISE TAYLOR,
ACTING ASSOCIATE REGISTRAR

Other reasons Taylor cited for the applications increase so far this year include the movement of the open house for new students from February to October, as well as concern about the "double cohort" emerging from Ontario.

PLEASE SEE APPLICATIONS • PAGE 2

Bear Tracks system replaces telephone registration

SHERISSE SZYMCZAK
News Writer

Students at the University of Alberta are reflecting on the benefits of Bear Tracks, the new online course registration system, as it is now the only system available to register for classes.

Bear Tracks opened to students last August, but in mid-December, the Interactive Voice Recognition registration system, also known as the telephone registration system, was dis-

continued, making Bear Tracks the only registration option.

Acting Associate Registrar (Director of Admissions) Louise Taylor explained the technology of the telephone system was so outdated, it could not be upgraded without unnecessary expense.

The online system has more functions than the phone system, said SU Vice-President (Academic) Mat Brechelt, who has fielded some student concerns with the system.

PLEASE SEE BEARTRACKS • PAGE 3



HOT TICKET Independent film + Robert Redford's craggy good looks and star power = the Sundance Film Festival. Check out page 10 for more!

PATRICK FINLAY

14 If you're finding that you're feeling unfulfilled in the kung fu sense of the word, fear not. Mr. Adams Howerton knows how to make you whole again. Have it your way!

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Outside
Thursday Sunup Knock knock. Who's there? It's High 3. Low 10.
Friday Sun and cloud/Norway: High 2. Low 7 Saturday Chance of flurries/Norway: High 6. Low 9 Sunday Cloudy: There's Norway they'll let us print this joke: High 3. Low 14
Source: Environment Canada

Notice
We have no Gateaway Tuesday, 11 February due to midterms. But we do have a Comix! press release will keep rolling as they have for the last 61 years. Now go to class or Of Mr Weatherbeet'll put you and Moose in detention.

From the archives
In the 20 January issue, Tom Spalding was incorrectly stated to be an Associate Professor of Business. He is in fact an Associate Professor of Psychology. We apologize for any inconvenience this statement might have caused.

1983

Corrections galore
In the 20 January issue, Tom Spalding was incorrectly stated to be a sessional lecturer in Earth and Atmospheric Sciences. He is in fact a sessional lecturer in the department of Renewable Resources. We apologize for any inconvenience this statement might have caused.

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complaints

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colophon

The Gateway is created using Apple Macintosh computers, Hewlett-Packard Scanjet 3c and Lexmark 2000c color printers, and Epson stylus printers. Photoshop® and Fireworks™ from Adobe InDesign® is used for layout. Adobe Illustrator® is used for vector images, while Adobe Photoshop is used for raster images. Adobe Acrobat® is used to convert PDF files which are burned directly to plates to be mounted onto the printing press. Text is set in a variety of type styles, and weights of Fette, Agnes, Joanna, and Avenir.

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Sarah "Hater" Hoyer, Jennifer Lai, Adam Houston, Brooklynn McLean, Anna Mavridis, Adriana sweetheyanne, Alex Konje, Peter, keep chuggin' away at ye old thistle, Mike Robertson, David Ferguson, My Poppet, Kristine Ovram, Leah Collins, Bryan Lee, Jon-Chuan, Gerald McLarney, Corey Hodges, Cameron McRae, John Kenmer, Dave Alexander, Lloyd Mager, Michael McLean, Michael McLean, Bill Wu, Sherisse Symone, Alice Rogers, Betty Verstraete, Miss Grundy, Agathe, Moose, and our favourite, Big Ethel, and Pop Tate's frosty and delicious matts and shakes.

Layton dissolves skepticism with welcoming attitude

NDP CONVENTION • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

And admittedly, although I have purchased a membership, a credential and a plane ticket, I can't really afford just to be here. I am far from a political hack; I've only been a member for a mere two months.

But my doubts about the party and Layton don't last long. That same day, I bump into Jack Layton and the media herd shuffling around him, microphones and cameras protruding from

the mob.

Before I know it, I'm standing next to him requesting an interview. To my surprise, Layton agrees.

What's more, not only am I granted an interview, but Layton also allows me into the campaign office (I was apparently the only media allowed inside). The simple fact I am interviewing him in spite of his busy schedule speaks volumes about his respect for youth.

JACK LAYTON QUOTES

• On fighting tuition hikes in Alberta

"The students are right to respond to [tuition hikes] ... because rising tuition fees is frankly something that's all too easy for a government to facilitate. They believe that somehow it's like a market place commodity, or some how like an RRSP; it's like you must invest in it now and you get paid back. But I know students who are carrying massive student debts the size

of mortgages: the only problem is, they haven't got house. And...they're having to postpone the investment in their future because we've loaded them up with this huge cost."

• On health care in Alberta

"Klein is leading the forces in Canada, along with Gordon Campbell in BC, that would dismantle public health care and turn it over to the market, which is just a recipe for disaster."

of mortgages: the only problem is, they haven't got house. And...they're having to postpone the investment in their future because we've loaded them up with this huge cost."

puter towers valued at \$10,000 were also taken from the General Services Building, as well as cash from an office in the Tory Building.

• On February 1 a math professor reported his briefcase had been stolen from an office in CAB. The papers inside were found scattered down the hallway. It may have been targeted due to its resemblance to a laptop case.

SNOWBALL PRANK NO LAUGHING MATTER

At 12:30am on 31 January, an off-duty constable was driving by a fraternity house when his car was hit by a snowball.

Campus Security quickly responded and followed the person responsible into the fraternity house where they attempted to identify him without success. The case is still under investigation.

ANGER MANAGEMENT ISSUES

On 1 February at 1:00am, a male told Campus Security office that he had been assaulted in Stadium Car Park. He had gone to investigate a loud banging, when he encountered a male repeatedly kicking a van. The student asked the man if it was his vehicle, and the man said the van had parked too close to his vehicle.

He then began shoving the witness. The witness was able to take down the male's license plate as he drove off, and the file has been forwarded to the Edmonton Police Service.

• On 2 February, a man was able to take down the male's license plate as he drove off, and the file has been forwarded to the Edmonton Police Service.

• On 2 February, two students came across a student jumping on the hood of a parked car at the south end of HUB mall. The student was issued a ticket for public intoxication, and after reviewing the potential criminal charges, the student agreed to pay for all damages.

ACTIVATION OF STUPIDITY

At 6am on 1 February, two students activated the blue help phone at the south end of HUB mall and ran off. Both students were apprehended by constables near the Education Building, and were lucky to receive a warning instead of a mischief charge.

LEAVING GLISTER

On 2 February at 4:45am, Campus Security received a report from a Lister Residence Life Assistant about two inebriated males who refused to leave Lister Hall. One was cooperative and was

Province may create 'Campus Alberta' to deal with enrolment

APPLICATIONS • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Concerns are well-founded that qualified students will no longer be able to get into the U of A due to increases in minimum entry averages, Connor said.

"Of course, it's a matter of comparative qualification," he said.

"But if you define qualified as someone who is actually capable of succeeding in university, then yes, we will definitely see an increase in the number of qualified people who won't be able to get in over the next three or four years."

It's too late to do anything about the immediate future, but what about five or ten years down the road?

"We're looking at increasing the concept of 'Campus Alberta,' increasing the number of students who get the first half of their degrees from colleges like Grant MacEwan," said Mark Cooper, Director of Communications for Alberta Learning.

"It's going to be a challenge though. We recognize the importance and need for a strong system of post-secondary education, but it's also important to recognize the limited number of tax dollars we have to deal with."

CAMPUS CRIME BEAT

Compiled by Joseph Kumpula
(jkumpula@ualberta.ca)

FLURRY OF THEFTS HITS CAMPUS

Campus has seen a sharp rise in the number of property crimes over the past week. The thefts are still under investigation, and staff and students are reminded to watch out for suspicious activity in and around their offices:

• On 30 January, two overnight thefts were reported. A \$2000 LCD projector was stolen from a classroom in the Biological Sciences Building, and a \$5000 Morris defibrillator was stolen from the fourth floor of the Heritage Medical Research Centre (HMRC). The defibrillator is described as a brown and black square box with sides approximately one foot long.

• On 3 February, Campus Security received a report that several offices on the seventh floor of the HMRC had been hit, with two laptops stolen. Two com-

puter towers valued at \$10,000 were also taken from the General Services Building, as well as cash from an office in the Tory Building.

• On 5 February a math professor reported his briefcase had been stolen from an office in CAB. The papers inside were found scattered down the hallway. It may have been targeted due to its resemblance to a laptop case.

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LEAVING GLISTER

On 2 February at 4:45am, Campus Security received a report from a Lister Residence Life Assistant about two inebriated males who refused to leave Lister Hall. One was cooperative and was

escorted to the Campus Towers hotel. The second was belligerent and constables arrested him for public intoxication. Two hours in the cell convinced him the party was over for the evening, and he was escorted back to his hotel.

MY BOYFRIEND'S BACK

On the afternoon of 2 February a female student in the John Scott Library was harassed repeatedly by a non-student male.

The student got her boyfriend, who was studying nearby, to see if he could have better luck in fending off the male's advances. When the odd behaviour continued despite warnings to back off, the boyfriend contacted Campus Security. Constables responded to the scene, and after a heart-to-heart with the male, he left campus without incident.

CODGER A BOTHER IN HUB

On 4 February a suspicious male was making female students feel uncomfortable in the Toy Atrium and HUB mall.

His description matches that of a man who had been previously harassing Java live employees. He is described as Caucasian, 65 years of age, 5 feet tall, with glasses.



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STREETERS

The phone registration system has been phased out, making the online Bear Tracks system the only option to register.

What do you think of Bear Tracks?



Jamie Bredo
Nutrition II

The only thing I don't like about it is the password makes it not as easy to use as the old system. And the fact that you have to go to the Admin Building to get your password.



Jennifer Bruce
Science II

It's a lot more user friendly. With the telephone system, if you screwed up you have to call again. This way is so much shorter.



Tyler VanBerker
Arts I

It's kind of hard to operate sometimes. I'm not too impressed with the hours they give you to work with but it seems to be the most useful with getting your information on classes and stuff like that. I prefer it over the phone-in system because it is easier to backtrack.

*Compiled and photographed by
Cosanna Preston and Iain Ilich*

maybe
MARGARET THATCHER
was a student leader
because ...

Bear Tracks system unbearable for some

Despite complaints about system's accessibility, most agree that it's still an improvement

BEARTRACKS • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The system contains links to class sizes, professor ratings, and information about which professor is teaching a course, said Brechtel.

Bear accessibility has been one of the more serious complaints. Students were frustrated with the hours of operation, which ran from 9am to 5pm. Changes have been made since, explained Brechtel, extending the hours from 6am to 2am. Complaints about logging onto the system have also been made.

"Bear Tracks is useless to me. I tried to use it before winter classes, and it told me it was busy. Well, I'm busy," said fourth-year arts student Teresa Sang.

Brechtel admits Bear Tracks is awkward to navigate, and has heard many complaints about it, particularly from computer programmers or people familiar with other online systems.

If you want to register for classes for both semesters at the same time, it's very difficult because you have to go all the way back, almost all the way out of the system, and then go all the way back in. It's awkward because the system was made as an online copy of the registration procedures."

For Brechtel, Bear Tracks' accessibility is brought into question by more than its awkward navigation: access to an actual computer may be an issue for some students. "The solution needs to be that the registrar's office opens those computer labs to available students for longer periods of time during high registration time."

But for Byrne, the problem of accessibility is less pressing. She acknowledges the online system could disadvantage students in remote locations without Internet, but says students should have access to the computer system if not at

home, then on campus. She also mentions, for those who encounter difficulties with the online system, there is a telephone number for students to call for registration help.

"Bear Tracks is useless to me. I tried to use it before winter classes, and it told me it was busy. Well, I'm busy."

TERESA SANG,
FOURTH-YEAR ARTS STUDENT

Byrne notes Bear Tracks has difficulties just as the telephone system did, but argues it is still an improvement as it allows administrators to log trouble reports, such as when the system is down or running slow. These changes allow the Registrar's Office to identify and solve problems with the system.

In the future, the Registrar's Office is reviewing benefits that more online services could provide. Byrne said the Registrar will explore making a web calendar the official University calendar, allowing students to access registration information earlier than before.

BEAR TRACKS FACTS

- Bear Tracks can be found at www.beartracks.ualberta.ca
- Registration for Spring/Summer courses starts on 14 February
- The public can also use Bear Tracks for calendar course listings and class schedules. Click on the "Guests click here to enter" link on the Bear Tracks home page; no special ID or password is necessary.

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OPINION

managing@gatewayualberta.ca • thursday, 6 february 2003

Clubbing seals not a good move for the NDP

THIS PAST MONTH JACK LAYTON, a former socialist Toronto city councillor, was elected by an overwhelming majority to be the leader of the federal NDP party.

One of Jack's first tasks in his position is to appoint a chief of staff, and already he has caused outcry from the party because of his selection. As a matter of fact, such an uproar was caused that his first choice has already, less than a week after his appointment, resigned.

Layton's first pick was notable animal-rights activist and IFAW (International Fund for Animal Welfare) Canada director Dr Rick Smith. In the past, IFAW has successfully lobbied the government to lower the quota on the killing of harp seals and to correctly assess the numbers killed with the acceptance of the Report of the Eminent Panel on Seal Management. Smith is also credited with getting French actress-turned-activist Bridget Bardot as well as William Shatner to join a campaign against seal hunting in Canada.

The criticism of Smith, though, comes from both the provincial NDP leader in Newfoundland, Jack Harris, and from others in the federal department of fisheries. Attributed to IFAW's campaigns against seal hunting, the European community has held an import ban on whitecoat seal products, which in turn is making it difficult for people who live on seal hunting to continue doing so.

With such a large NDP working-class population in Newfoundland still in support of seal hunting, Smith chose to resign, and instead of Layton and the NDP taking an environmental stance and advocating sustainability in seal hunting, they have chosen to listen to the people of Newfoundland who still club seals for profit.

What shocks me here are the reasons why seal hunting is still continuing. A harp seal can be legally killed as soon as it has begun to moult its white hair, around two weeks after birth. The department of fisheries and oceans still condones and subsidizes a quarter million baby harp seals to be slaughtered for their prized fur and for the male seal's sex organs which are marketed as an aphrodisiac in Asia. Disregarding scientific reports that the seal population is not sustainable with its current quota of 275 000, the federal government has maintained the same quota for the 2002 season.

This, I think, is a grave error. The clubbing and shooting of seals should be illegal.

Purgatory forbid that Layton would be hiring a man who has successfully lobbied the government to reduce seal hunting in the '80s and '90s. Rick Smith and Jack Layton would have done Newfoundland a favour by saving such a national measure instead of selling it at a personal price. To bad he resigned before the party could have benefited from Smith's potential.

PATRICK FINLAY
Photo Editor

8186 words

DROPPED INTO A MICROSOFT WORD-PROCESSOR, the transcript reads 8186 words in length, but the tension in the room isn't visible from here, as eyes can't look through two time zones to New York, New York. There, Wednesday, US Secretary of State Colin Powell read to the United Nations why his country should mosh another, and he's out to convince others.

I'll leave it at that, for now; no more arguing—we're too tired (some of us, literally) to put out another piece like either found on the opposite page.

Right now, I'll just point out eight-thousand words, fiction or not, that can preserve or destroy a government, rightly or wrongly. Whether bombs drop or stay in their bays, those words are too powerful to ignore. Find them, get behind them, under them, respond to them, do something to them. Anything.

It's for the best that you do, whatever the outcome. Just trust me on this one.

RAYMOND PENIUK
Managing Editor

LETTERS

Christianity much more complex than 'Blair' campaign

After reading Leah Ungstad's letter "I disagree with Blair" in the 4 February Gateway, I have to say I was confused about how I felt. I've never agreed and disagreed so much with one letter. I agree that the campaign was a propaganda campaign. It presented a safe and popular Jesus that was nicely padged and hid the fact that Jesus was a man who suffered and called all those who follow him to suffer as well.

I did not, however, write this letter because I agree with Leah; nor did I wish to convert or convince anyone. I simply wish to comment on a few of Leah's points.

First, religion is something deeply personal for many people, myself included. Many of us, who she claims simply "run with the pack," actually think for ourselves. Many of us have studied long and hard to learn Greek, Hebrew, and many other critical tools for dealing with our faith and the text it is based on so we can define our faith ourselves.

I also find it unfair to judge millions of people together in a strawman argument. Not every Christian fits into your neat little package that is so conveniently easy to understand.

Second, it seems Leah must be right, since, even though I think for myself, I follow the "pretty story" of a "probably fictitious dead guy" who happens to be a "pretty" story that involves agonizing torture and teachings such as "He who does not take his cross and follow after me, is not worthy." Sound "pretty"? Where do I sign up for all that suffering and self-sacrifice?

But, then again, this is irrelevant because it came from a "possibly fictitious dead guy" who happens to be mentioned in many first and second century sources including Christian sources, Gnostic sources (Thomas), Jewish sources (Josephus, the Talmud), Roman sources (Pliny, Tacitus) and dozens of gospels not found in the Bible.

My advice is that Leah shouldn't waste her time judging the religious beliefs of others, which are just as valid as hers.

DANA OUVELLETTE
Arts IV

Unfortunately, André's opinion piece wasn't satire

When I started to read Chris André's piece on his problem with pedestrians ("Learn how to cross the street, buddy," February), I thought I was about to read something satiric geared to gently criticize drivers who suffer from irrational hatred of pedestrians. Unfortunately, it soon became clear that Mr André himself suffers from the perplexing disorder and for some odd reason, the Gateway chose to broadcast his misanthropic views to the campus community.

Although we have few axioms remaining in our post-modern world, I would strongly suggest that the pedestrian is always right by herself if she/he is too preoccupied with rushing a light and beating other cars.



R.BIESINGER

undoubtedly be the victim of any confrontation with a motor vehicle.

Due to this, the driver and pedestrian, in a sense, have a fiduciary relationship on the road and in every case the driver is obliged to safeguard the pedestrian's physical health by driving in a sensible and defensive manner.

Consider this: no matter how Mr André makes his polluting way to the mall, he will undoubtedly hurtle past elementary school and little kids' or "stupid creatures," using his charming vernacular. I would suggest that since Mr André seemingly cannot control his outbursts of road rage, he should strongly consider letting a bus driver drive him to school, lest he mow down an unsuspecting six-year-old in his deathmobile.

Maybe he could even ride a bike instead of walking, burning off his sweat in calories instead of hot, carbon-monoxide-rich plumes. I know our transit system isn't the best and not all of us can cycle or walk, but way too many people drive to this university, making it a noisy, smelly, and sometimes, dangerous place to be.

Save some parking and gas money, and perhaps your anger for something that really matters, Chris, and leave your car at home.

MATTHEW SMITH
Grad Studies II

Normally, the driver is surprised and, after slamming on the breaks, gives a small apologetic look, which I'm only too happy to reward with my middle finger raised in angry defiance—it's not much, but it's sure great.

I will grant André that "incompetent pedestrians" who jaywalk or cross without looking first do exist. Nevertheless, the vast majority do follow the rules.

We pedestrians suffer enough from the horrid conditions of the sidewalks in this cesspool of a city without having to deal with idiotic, hurried drivers. CTV News recently rated Edmonton as having the worst driving record in the country—I couldn't agree more. Edmonton's drivers need to pull their heads out of their asses and pay more attention to the walkers and bikers with whom they share the streets.

As André notes, and indeed seems pleased by, regardless of whether a pedestrian or a driver is at fault, in an accident the pedestrian always loses.

MARK IRVINE
Grad Studies II

Post-secondary, by legal definition, is not a right

I'm sorry Miss Maja Osmanagic ("Education is actually a 'right,'" 4 February) but you are mistaken on a number of points in your letter.

First, a "right" does not need to be earned. You don't see a lot of people running around earning their right to free speech, or the right to free association, or the right to life free from harm. Rights are by definition guaranteed, not earned.

Second, you asked that I reflect a little on what I want for future generations. I have done just that and here is what I've come up with: if education is a right, you don't need to earn your way into university. Since university is a right, anyone who wants to go should be able to.

Sounds good, so far. But, what happens next? Enrollment increases dramatically as every Tom, Dick and Harry who thinks they might enjoy university signs up. Who's going to have to pay for the additional facilities, additional teachers, additional support staff? The students. By making post-secondary education a right, you actually increase tuition for the very people you are trying to support.

The only guaranteed rights we have as human beings are the right to life and liberty, to freedom of thought and expression, and equality before the law. Anything else you decide to make a right costs money to someone else. For every new right, someone pays. This simply would not be fair, as the hardworking citizens of this country would become the slaves of those who thought it might be nice to go to school for as long as they want.

Third, money is not so expendable. It is a physical representation of what people feel my time, skills and effort are worth. It is not some abstract concept, but rather a very real symbol of an abstract concept. It is not the money which replaces a desire for knowledge, but rather is simple payment, time for time, money for knowledge, with the university.

Also, if money were such a concern, students could easily attend Grant MacEwan, Concordia, or NAIT, where tuition is less. The reason they don't is because, just like with the clothes sold by "lowly" salesmen, they want the reputation that comes from having this university's logo stamped on the degree, much like a designer label.

ZACHARY WEAVILL
Engineering II

'Choo-choo!'

Besides the point that Adam Rozenhart brings up about the loss of privacy that comes with the police helicopter ("On helicopters," 4 February), I have another issue. Is the helicopter really that fast?

Last one night, I compared the speed of a train passing nearby to that of the 'copter that was buzzing around, wasting fuel and our tax money. The train looked like it was moving faster.

So, how about we replace Bob Layton with Robin Stickley and then replace our helicopter with a police train? Can you just imagine the crime-solving possibilities?

"Choo-choo! All aboard! Criminals all aboard!"

RYAN PENIUK
Education III

Letters to the editor should be dropped off at room 3-04 of the Students' Union Building, or e-mailed to managing@gatewayualberta.ca.

The Gateway reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libelous, or otherwise hateful in nature.

Letters to the editor should be no longer than 350 words, and should include the name, student identification number, program, and year of study of the author, to be considered for publication.

Is George W Bush a Christian?

GERARD
MCLARNEY

One of the best things about being Canadian is not being American.

Sure, a "negative identity" can't be too healthy, but I'll be the first to admit I'm satisfied with what nationality I'm not. And as the Bush administration moves closer to war, I like to imagine the distinction between us and them is getting even bigger. But the one thing Mr. Bush and I share, the thing I can't seem to shake, is that we're both Christians.

Being placed in the same faith camp as Bush can elicit a range of reactions from pride to subtle embarrassment to outright denial. The most common question is: "George Bush really is a Christian? I don't think he is, in name, but I'm forced to look a little closer at what it means to be a Christian, and perhaps more pointedly, why would a Christian leader demonstrate such militancy toward an enemy?"

To define what a Christian is, it is perhaps more fitting to explain what a Christian is not.

A Christian is not a "nice guy." Suspend your belief that a typical follower of Christ is one who says "please" all the time or frets over being a do-gooder in some sort of Ned Flanders style of insane perfection. No—Christians are not much different from your regular, average people.

Christians believe that God is a life-giving community of persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Christians believe in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. Through a faith relationship with Jesus, the divine saviour and healer, Christians are enabled to live life to the fullest. This faith relationship with God can be referred to in a

"vertical" sense, that is, between God and person.

No doubt, George Bush has a vertical relationship with God. His prayer—that God will bless his nation, time and time again—stands as testimony. In this respect, he stands out from recent Presidents and his contemporary western world leaders. Bush's public prayer life has not gone unnoticed, nor have his public policies.

Moving from a vertical understanding of Bush as a man of faith, we can think of his policies in a horizontal sense, or a moral-ethical perspective—that is, in his relationship with those around him. Thus, if Bush sees God as his Heavenly Father, then all of us, Saddam included, are his brothers and sisters.

I don't doubt he is, in name, but I'm forced to look a little closer at what it means to be a Christian, and perhaps more pointedly, why would a Christian leader demonstrate such militancy toward an enemy?

To his credit, Bush has demonstrated some leadership in caring for others: he is a pronounced supporter of the unborn and recently committed an additional \$10 billion to combat the AIDS pandemic. But opposing the Kyoto accord betrays a streak of concern for many around the globe and future generations.

Otherwise, a poignant contradiction between Bush's vertical relationship with God and horizontal relationship with others is in his comportment

toward Saddam Hussein. Perhaps Bush genuinely cares, and all this sabre-rattling really is an attempt to look out for the global community's best interests and ensure Saddam does not step out of line.

Recall that only a year prior to the Second World War, when the hands-on British Prime Minister, Neville Chamberlain, earnestly proclaimed that there would be "peace in our time." But Iraq's plans for military expansion can't be too grand, given the intense international spotlight on the nation and a decade of crippling sanctions. I question whether a preemptive war is a result of genuine care for others, or on the contrary, a product of deeply rooted animosity.

What makes me cringe the most is not Bush showing a lack of love, but this demonizing of others. During the recent State of the Union address, the look of triumph on his face as he announced a list of America's enemies that had been killed or captured, was sinister. Establishing an axis of evil and good serves to de-humanize those labelled evil, and certainly, this is contrary to the Gospel.

Bush does not hide the fact that he is a follower of Christ but has fallen into the trap of selectively playing his faith card. Undoubtedly, many demands are placed on powerful political leaders, but an authentic vertical relationship with God requires one to remain faithful in loving others without compromise. I see George asking for God's blessing and calling for the destruction of others in the same speech, and this makes me wonder if George has considered the full implications of what it means to be a Christian. He may be Christian in name, but he is having a difficult time walking the talk.

As Bush moves closer to this pre-emptive war, I find I'm looking for ways to distance myself from him. Being a Canadian is one, and from all that I can tell, being a practising Christian is another.

'Old' Europe risks its political demise

COREY
HOGAN

It's a comfort to write the Bush administration off as a pack of idiots; we have a hard time understanding why a group of smart people would do such wildly stupid things. Yet as the years progress, and we settle in to what may be the shorter half of the 43rd President's reign of error, one wonders if Bush's idiocy is real or imagined.

22 January was a day like most others, and may very well be remembered as just that. But 22 January was also the day that, through error or calculation, the United States administration did something that truly warrants praise, if only for its political elegance. In what seems unlikely to be anything but a calculated move, their Defense Secretary, Donald Rumsfeld, was quoted as saying Germany and France represent "old Europe" and that the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's "centre of gravity is shifting to the east."

France and Germany, now surprisingly, were furious. France's Environment Minister even found a metaphor to use some four-letter words in reference to Mr. Rumsfeld without actually using said four-letter words.

Americans are anxious at home and don't want war with Iraq without international support. Accordingly, the Bush Administration is changing whose support is necessary; instead of making important world players their dependable allies, they're making dependable allies into important world players.

If this administration can convince the average American that loyal Poland or the steadfast Czech Republic more closely represents European interests

than the inhabitants of Paris or Berlin, American apprehension about the war disappears. And as far as the Polish or Czech governments are concerned, if they can convince the average American that Poland or the Czech Republic is a power with a voice and said governments support the stated policies of the United States government, then they will ensure a place in the hearts and investment portfolios of the greater American public.

Germany and France, however, have everything to lose, as they have no practical recourse with the Americans ignoring them and any little leverage in the Iraq situation as a whole. "Old" Europe finds itself in an untenable situation by voicing its opposition to war.

If Germany and France fail to stop an intervention in Baghdad because American attention about allied support is diverted, Rumsfeld's statement on old Europe becomes self-fulfilling. He will have proven balance no longer lies with "old" Europe, and NATO's gravity is centred east. The Bush administration is sending this one message very clearly: if you don't support us, anticipate our support for you to drop away.

Expect two things in the lead up to war with Iraq. Expect a lot of praise and mention of central European countries, and expect a downplaying of the importance of those 140 million "old" Europeans. My advice to Germany and France? Get on board—you're at risk of becoming irrelevant.

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Night club's profiling is a bad deal



CAMERON BARR

I'd never given much thought to my skin colour. It didn't matter growing up in St Albert, of course, because everyone else was equally pale to the point where the minority population of my high school was named "Dan." It didn't matter doing my undergrad in a college town in Ontario, where the bemuddled locals would hurl invective and beer bottles with equal vigour at anyone who looked like a student, skin colour be damned. And, since I've come to the good ol' University of Alberta, it hasn't mattered a bit until very recently.

I attend classes in an ethnically diverse faculty, far more diverse than Edmonton at large. I happen to think, despite our differing backgrounds, we get along fine.

Sure, there's the occasional confusion over cultural differences (note to self: don't offer any more Muslim friends ham-and-cheese sandwiches), and I'll occasionally have to use my whiteness as an excuse for my utter lack of funk, but the colour of someone's skin is, for the most part, about as important as the colour of their eyes or hair. I think most of us are too busy using (and occasionally killing) our brain cells to waste much time worrying about such archaic concepts as "race."

And that's what made what happened on Friday so galling. Upon reaching the door of a local Top 40

club, several of my friends and classmates who happen to be a little more ethnic than I were asked, at the bouncer's "discretion," for three pieces of government-issued photo ID.

Now, I don't think I even own three pieces of government-issued photo ID, let alone carry them with me, but this happened several times—just about every one of my brown-skinned classmates was turned away. This, despite the fact that every one of us had tickets to that night's event, a fundraiser for our class' children's charity. Oddly enough, this only happened to my friends with dark skin; my skin is as white as the driven snow, and I breezed through with hardly so much as a sniff at my driver's license.

**Now, I don't
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I'd never experienced this before. I'd heard of it happening, certainly, but it had always occupied a space in my mind reserved for borderline urban myths, like those "no dogs or Irish" signs on pubs at the turn of

the last century. It seemed too ridiculous, too much a thing of the distant past, to be credible. Things like this didn't happen anymore, I thought. We'd moved beyond the point when we cared whether someone's parents were from. We'd realized that someone's skin colour doesn't matter.

At least, it shouldn't, which is why I still get worked up when I think back to last weekend. It pisses me off to think of my friends shivering in the cold, while the steroid monkeys manning the door let 16-year-olds with obviously fake identification cards in because they're named Ashley or Brittany and show plenty of cleavage. It pisses me off to think of people who have dedicated their lives to serving others (the majority of us being Med students) thought of as less worthy of admission to a shitty club than I am, for no reason other than the randomness of their birth.

There's a photo on my computer, with seven or so of my classmates in it, from three or four different ethnic groups. They're smiling and laughing, looking pleased as anything to be doing what they love, in the company of friends. It was taken at the same bar we went to after some of us couldn't get into the Top 40 club. After searching the club for those whom I was driving around, I walked to my car past where my friends had recently stood. Edmonton's subarctic night had rarely felt so bitterly cold.

We struggled into the bar where the photo was taken, and all of us—black, white, yellow, brown or aqua—danced until we couldn't feel our legs and they kicked us all out into the street.

The night, so frigid just hours before, was now bright and warm.

Hollywood scandal!



RAYMOND BIESINGER

the **Crystals** and the **Ronettes** to the top of the pops—fired deadly bullets into actress **Lana Clarkson**, something that put me out of balance as the 12 January heart-attack-related death of the Bee Gees' Maurice Gibb.

God bless their souls, but even more startling was that on that Sunday night, when Spector met Clarkson in Hollywood's grandest club, the **Foundation Room**, the former voice of Judas Priest and angel-throated metal-god **Rob Halford** was singing up a storm—literally, ripping the roof off the house—gearing up for his **Crucible World Tour 2003**!

"I think I've penetrated even closer to the heart of the metal community with this new album," he said, on record, and I can't help but believe him. So look out! This tour promises to be the heavy metal equivalent of the 1984 chemical disaster in **Bhopal, India**, in which a Dow corporation affiliate, **Union Carbide**, released deadly gases that killed 20,000, and affected another 500,000 people. That's according to **bhopal.org**, of course—those nasty rumour-spreaders!

All in all, it seems that only some stars of the stars have learned the lesson of our city's latest star, **Clare the Cat**. Somewhere in Belgrade, a few blocks south of **Sunshine Foodland**, **Clare**, orange in colour, murdered my gal's roommate's fish, **Hank the Fish**, and got away scot-free!

How? First, she was a cat, and second, the evening afterwards, she snatched Hank's bowl off its pedestal, leaving no lasting evidence of the altercation to remind the powers that be they were mad at the neighbourhood's cutest kitty!

If only Union Carbide and Phil Spector could pull that off!

"I think I've penetrated even closer to the heart of the metal community with this new album," he said, on record, and I can't help but believe him. So look out!

It's been a big month for the residents of glitter and gold!

While **roommate Kyle** (fresh from a series of dates, I might add) and I were watching an episode of the popular television program **Malcolm in the Middle** this Sunday, **Global TV** informed this correspondent that **Phil Spector**, inventor of the **Wall of Sound**—the production values that shot such 1960s girl-group greats as



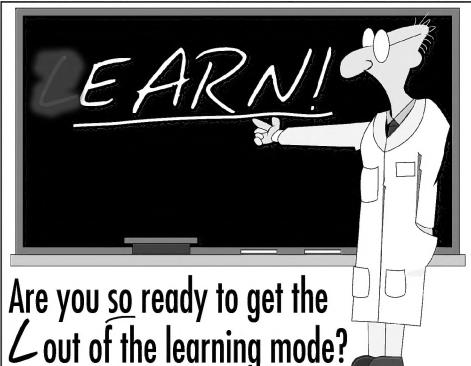
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SPORTS

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HOME GAMES

Volleyball – Main Gym

Best-of-three Canada West quarterfinals

Friday, 7 February	Pandas vs Regina, 6:30pm Bears vs UBC, 8pm
Saturday, 8 February	Pandas vs Regina, 6:30pm Bears vs UBC, 8pm
Sunday, 9 February	Pandas vs Regina, 1pm* Bears vs UBC, 3pm*

*If necessary

Hockey – Clare Drake Arena

Friday, 7 February	Bears vs Huskies, 7:30pm
Saturday, 8 February	Bears vs Huskies, 7:30pm

ATHLETIC NOTES

Volleyball

Laurie Eisler's **Pandas** (16-4) finished the regular season on an eight-game winning tear. Further, their competition in this weekend's best-of-three Canada West quarterfinal, the 10-10 **Regina Cougars**, fell to Alberta 3-0, 3-1 in the only games between the teams this season.

The **Bears** (19-1) lost their only conference game this season to the 18-2 **Manitoba Bisons**. Their competition in this weekend's conference quarter-final is 15-15 **UBC**. Don't count on a Sunday match.

Hockey

The **Pandas** (17-0-1) are on the road for their last conference match-ups of the regular season versus the 10-7-1 **Saskatchewan Huskies**. Star forward Danielle Bourgeois is in Germany with the Canadian national under-22 squad, but should be back in time for the playoffs.

Rob Daum's **Bears** (20-2) play their last conference home games this weekend against 15-7-2 **Saskatchewan**. The **Huskies** boast Canada West's top scorer in Deer Beuker (12 goals, 24 assists), while Alberta's Steve Shrum (19 goals, 16 assists) holds the second spot.

Basketball

Having clinched Canada West's eighth and final playoff berth last weekend, the **Pandas** (8-10) are on the road for their last regular-season tilt versus the 13-5 **Winnipeg Wesmen**.

The **Bears** (13-3) clinched top spot in the Canada West's Central division last weekend, and will host the final division 21-23 February in the Main Gym. They're in Winnipeg for their last conference contests of the season this weekend.

Track and Field

Select Bears and Pandas head to Saskatoon for a meet 8-9 February.

Wanna be seen in print?

With varsity athletics winding to a close for the 2002-2003 campaign, the sports department will soon be in need of general interest sports stories. If your team or club has a story to tell, e-mail sports@gateway.ualberta.ca



SUPPLIED BY OSCAR CRUZ PEREIRA

GOJU-KAI KARATE CLUB Four members of the club competed 1 February at the 2003 Alberta Karate Championships, and won six medals. The participants, from left to right, are Lawrence Lam, Ping Jim, Noriko Daneshabab and Oscar Cruz Pereira, who were awarded bronze, gold, bronze and silver respectively in Kata (forms), while Lam and Pereira won gold and silver accordingly in Kumite (sparring).

Volleyball Bears aim to end Canada West title drought

Alberta will host the Final Four if they beat UBC in this weekend's best-of-three series

BRENDAN PROC
Sports Editor

After suffering the only loss of their 19-1 2002/2003 campaign in Manitoba last weekend, the volleyball Bears are focused on winning something they haven't won in a long time.

Alberta hasn't won the Canada West conference since 1999, and when you're the defending national champions, as the Bears are, four years is a long time between conference titles.

In a strange twist of fate, the then-second-seeded **Winnipeg Wesmen** knocked off the then-fifth-seeded Bears for the Canada West title last season, only to lose 3-2 to Alberta in the CIS gold medal match. The Wesmen missed the playoff cut this season.

This weekend, the top-ranked Bears host the sixth-ranked, 5-15 **UBC Thunderbirds** in a best-of-three quarterfinal at the Main Gym.

"They've been playing pretty good lately, for them," said Bears head coach Richard Schick, with a slight grin that he tried very hard to suppress. The Thunderbirds did finish the season on a two-game winning streak, but those wins came against the 2-18 Cougars, at home in Vancouver. Alberta was 3-0, 3-0, 3-0, 3-1 in four conference contests against UBC this season.

"When we show up, we win," said graduating setter Colin Stephenson. "Manitoba did nothing special to beat us."

"We saw some skeletons come out Saturday against Manitoba," said Schick. "We were undefeated, and the Bisons were fired up."

"We played poorly, and we could've almost won that game," he added.

As hosts of the CIS national championships 27 February through 1 March in the Main Gym, the Bears are playing this weekend's series for home court advantage in the Canada West Final Four, 14-15 February.

"We want to demolish them," said Schick. "There can't be a let-up."

If there is a let-up, it could spoil the finale for much of the team.

Following the playoff run, five players will



FILER PHOTO: MAYLINE LOVLAND

The Bears haven't won a Canada West title since 1999, despite winning the CIS nationals last year.

graduate: setters Stephenon and Ryan Taylor, powers Pascal Cardinal and Brad Bell, and right side Sandy Henderson.

Schick is only his second year at the helm, will call it wraps after the season as well. When he took the reigns from former head coach Terry Danylik, Schick agreed he'd step down after two seasons, giving the now-assistant coach time to

complete a Master's degree. Next season, Danylik resumes leadership of the team.

The weekend series, however, is the only thing in the Bears' sights, for now.

Alberta takes on the Thunderbirds Friday and Saturday at 8pm in the Main Gym, and, if necessary, at 3pm on Sunday. The games will not be broadcast.

Ghosts of UBC linger in Canada West quarterfinal

Volleyball Pandas concerned that quarterfinal opponent, the **Regina Cougars**, beat perennial powerhouse **UBC** in their last conference game

BRENDAN PROC
Sports Editor

Entering this weekend's Canada West quarterfinal, the Pandas boast an eight-game win streak coming out of the regular season, and a 16-4 record. Their competition, the **Regina Cougars**, finished 10-10, going 3-3 in their last six games.

The Pandas, however, are worried.

"We're concerned about the fact they beat UBC," said head coach Laurie Eisler. "UBC was the last team to beat us this season." On 30 November, 2002, Alberta fell 3-1 to the Thunderbirds in Vancouver. And on 1 February,

the Cougars beat UBC 3-2 at Vancouver.

"Regina played very good that game," said Eisler, after reviewing video of the match. The crux of their Thunderbird fear, however, probably goes back to last February, when UBC swept them out of the playoffs with two consecutive wins in the quarterfinal.

That Pandas team, however, was much different than this year's.

Alberta boasts a six-year national title streak, which concluded with their 1999-2000 CIS championship victory. They missed the playoffs in 2000-2001, and squeaked into Canada West's eighth and final playoff spot last season, the precursor to their thumping by the T-Birds. UBC went on to finish with national bronze.

This year's Pandas crew, described by some as surprising, finished first in the Canada West conference, while perennial-power UBC finished a close second.

On paper, there isn't any indicator that Alberta shouldn't smash the Cougars this weekend, regardless of their opponent's win against UBC.

Further, Alberta beat Regina in both of their conference contests this season, 3-1 and 3-0 respectively, and edged the Cougars in every major statistical category except digs, where the Pandas averaged 12.77, while their opponent averaged 14.00.

"This group has never trained during reading week," said Eisler, explaining the main difference between this group and the Pandas who won the string of national titles. "The biggest difference is experience."

And with only two matches versus the Cougars this season, the Pandas aren't as knowledgeable of their adversary as they'd like to be.

"We don't know Regina like the back of our hand," said third-year setter Larissa Cundy. "We're going to need to play well against their power hitters." The Cougars feature a few players who "can really hit the ball," notes Cundy.

The best-of-three series begins Friday in the Main Gym at 6:30pm, and goes at 6:30pm on Saturday as well. If required, the teams will tilt one last time on Sunday at 1pm. The games will not be broadcast.



FILE PHOTO: KATE TWEEDIE

The Bears are undefeated in 28 consecutive games versus the Dinos, but only 1-1 against the Huskies this season.

Hockey Bears undefeated in 838 days at home

BRYAN LEE
Sports Writer

When you haven't lost a conference home game in 838 days, people, mostly noisy Gateway sports writers, start asking questions.

A little research showed that the Bears hockey team hasn't lost a Canada West regular season game at Clare Drake Arena since 21 October, 2000. The Saskatchewan Huskies got the best of them in that contest, beating Alberta 4-2. The teams meet this weekend in a series at the Drake.

"I couldn't even begin to explain it," fifth-year defenceman Warren Toews remarked. "I love playing here, and every guy comes prepared for a home game."

"Maybe there's a mystique," he added jokingly.

Golden Bears home ice was formally called Varsity Arena before 1989, when it was renamed in honour of coach Clare Drake's 28 years behind the bench. The Green and Gold have continued Drake's winning ways, with ten CIS titles since his retirement.

This season is no different, with a

20-2-2 record and a number-one ranking. At home, the Bears are a perfect 12-0-0, and away, they're 8-2-2.

While Huskies coach Dave Adolph is struggling to deal with the Bears phenomenon, Toews had a simple answer.

Quite simply, the Bears play better here. They've never been out-shot at home this season, and deficits always demonstrate that "come from behind" effort, something that hasn't always happened on the road.

Some inspiring defensive efforts have unfolded on home ice this season, too. In particular, one in November, when Toews made a spectacular dive to stop the threat of a speedy Manitoba Bison, even though Alberta was well in control of the game.

The Huskies will need quite an effort to beat the Bears' streak this weekend.

"They're probably one of the better teams in the league. Every time we play them, they're really hard-fought games. We're just really looking forward to playing a good team," said centre Brad Tuschek of the fourth-ranked, 15-7-2 squad. Tuschek scored the game-winning goal in a two-goal win during last Saturday's 5-2 win

over Calgary.

"They always play us hard. We lost a game earlier in the year in their barn [3-1 in November], so we know we've got to play our best game to beat them," Toews said, who setup Tuschek's game-winner last Saturday.

"They're big, strong, fast and they can score," he explained.

Saskatchewan's top line presents a triple threat in 6'3" forwards Dan Filak and Derek Shultz, and Canada West scoring leader Dean Beuker.

The Bears' Steve Shrum is hot on the heels of Beuker though, only trailing him by one point after Shrum's six-point series versus Calgary. The third-year forward was named Canada West Male Athlete of the Week.

Games start at 7:30pm on Friday and Saturday, and both can be heard on CJRS FM88.

PANDAS WRAP UP CONFERENCE PLAY

The undefeated Pandas (17-0-1) finish conference play in Saskatchewan against the Huskies this weekend. Both teams have already qualified for the Canada West playoffs, as well as the national championships.

This is Bob. Bob's having a great time 'cause he's sitting in a Molson Half Price Single Seat.



Pizza and pop quell Young Stars' troubles

JOEL CHURY

Ramblings from Moose Lodge

the score had already been run up 9-0 in favour of the easterners. Aebischer's mother later admitted that she "shouldn't have let Lil' Davy have that sleepover last night," blaming his ineffectiveness on his being "tuckered out."

Off the ice, the players' siblings were just as entertaining. Philadelphia Flyer forward Pavel Brendl's two younger sisters dashed around the rink to grab the packs that made it over the boards, all the while pestering Flyer defenceman Dennis Seidenberg's little brother, Ike.

Ike was frustrated over the harassment, claiming, "I didn't even want to come to this stupid game," admitting that he was lured into coming by the promise of a post-game slushie.

After the fifth-best eastern goal was scored, the搔客者 decided to take a break on poor Aebischer and his mates by refusing to update the scoreboard.

"You know, we wouldn't be losing so bad if that Horcoff kid's father wasn't the coach," Mrs Schulz complained. She was referring to Edmonton Oiler forward Shawn Horcoff's father who was listed on the program as "Mr Horcoff."

"That kid's always on the ice, and he doesn't pass," said Schulz.

Horcoff's parents were unavailable for comment.

At the end of the game, the score was estimated to be around 36-2, but that didn't matter. Only fun mattered. Both teams lined up and received trophies for their efforts. The trophies awarded to each team were identical, with the exception of their engravings. The easterners' read "A Champions," while the westerners' read "A Finalists."

All was not lost for the western players though, as they were treated to pizza after the game by Columbus Blue Jackets forward Rick Nash's father, who won \$67.50 in the game's 50/50 draw.

It was reported that he had purchased an "arm's length" of tickets in the second period for \$5. "I'm sure that they will be pretty upset after that game," said Mr Nash, carrying a hockey bag and two sticks on his way out of the arena.

"It's nothing that a few Hawaiian pizzas and some orange pop can't fix, though."

Molson Half Price Single Seats

It's unheard of, but now you can purchase a Molson Single Seat for the next Oilers home game at half price! Tickets go on sale every game day at 12 noon until sell out. Cheer about that!

Tickets at Ticketmaster or call 414-GOAL.



Dancing On The Sun

Words MIKE ROBERTSON, DAVID ZEGLER
Photos PATRICK FINLAY

We returned from the Sundance Film Festival last week, and boys and girls, we have some tales to tell. But instead of boring you with musings on our celebrity hobnobbing and talk of movies you probably won't see for a long time, we will instead enlighten you with the history of the film festival, the nature of the independent film atmosphere, some tips for aspiring filmmakers, and a quick student guide for those attending film festivals.

The most exhilarating aspect of Sundance was the potent independent atmosphere. Everywhere, people were discussing the screenings. Every screening we attended, someone stormed up a conversation about a film, from the ramifications it had on politics, to the directing choices. Many were struggling filmmakers from New York or Los Angeles who just wanted to see good film. Having this experience, it's a shame this doesn't occur at films on a regular basis. I wish this happened every time I went to SilverCity, but then again, how deep is xXx going to be?

The quality of film at Sundance is entirely different as well. Most films are up-and-coming flicks that haven't been manipulated or bastardized by the Hollywood system, so they are quite intellectual and very engaging as cinematic art. Each film sparked a lot of interest about what the director was trying to say.

Film at the festival is treated like live theatre. The audience claps when the director's name comes up, and when movies end and the credits roll, clapping ensues; almost everyone sits through the entirety of the end credits.

If you want to be immersed in film, go to a film festival and breathe the air...



Advice for Aspiring Filmmakers

After most screenings, the director (and sometimes producers and/or actors from the film) would hold a Q&A session with the audience, offering insight into the filmmaking process and the film's concepts.

We had the privilege of talking to Jonathan Heselman, director of *The Hebrew Hammer*, a "Jewsploitation" film about a Semitic Shaft who fights to stop Santa Claus from ending Chanukah. Here is some advice for aspiring filmmakers trying to break into the biz, from Heselman and a few other directors (Canadian film director Michael McKenzie, Dark City director Alex Proyas, and the original *OuterSpace*, Matt Dillon):

1 Get off your ass and start making movies with whatever you have. Even if it's a low-grade momma's boy handheld camera, do everything you can with what you have.

2 Film school is all fine and good, but you do the real learning when you start making your own films. Robert Rodriguez made movies just because he wasn't good at anything else. He made *El Mariachi* for \$7000, proving that creativity, not money, is most important in filmmaking. Darren Aronofsky (*Requiem for a Dream*) made his first, *Pi*, by borrowing money from his parents and even the mafia. All filming for *Pi* was done without permits from the city, so the crew always had one person looking out for police.

3 Get showcased. Entering film competitions like Sundance, NoDance and Slamdance is an excellent way to get people to recognize new talents. Those in Park City with celluloid were probably from LA or New York, looking for hot new talent to distribute. Most people we ran into (and eavesdropped on) were producers and distribution company reps scouting for fresh and unique ideas.

4 Always be reading and writing. If you want to be an auteur and tap your creative spout by handling most aspects of your film (directing, writing, producing, key grip), then always keep tapping your creative outlets. The most basic element in film is a solid story, and a surprisingly many films lack it. Many filmmakers are actually English majors or literature enthusiasts, which makes sense as film attempts to convey a story people can relate to.

5 Don't get discouraged. Face it, your first films aren't going to be Hitchcockian in suspense, or even stylistic like Kubrick; they'll probably suck. Most first-time filmmakers at Sundance have made 20–30 short films before moving on to a feature-length movie.

6 Love what you do; the rest will follow.

Sundance's Changing Face

Lately there has been talk about how the festival has been gravitating away from the independent spirit it once clung to. Ever since *Sex, Lies, and Videotape* came out in 1989, the Hollywood studios have been flocking to Sundance both to show the movies that wouldn't make a big stir with wide release and to pick up the quality movies they couldn't make themselves.

Robert Redford recently commented on Hollywood's influence on Sundance in an interview on sundancefilm.com: "Once they found it, the feeding frenzy and competition for acquiring product started, and you had egomaniacs coming in who were buyers and sellers. You had people cheating and stealing and trying to cut each other off at the knees. That attracted some stories, and the stories attracted the celebrities, and the celebrities attracted the media."

"ONCE THEY FOUND IT, THE FEEDING FRENZY AND COMPETITION FOR ACQUIRING PRODUCT STARTED, AND YOU HAD EGOMANIACS COMING IN WHO WERE BUYERS AND SELLERS. YOU HAD PEOPLE CHEATING AND STEALING AND TRYING TO CUT EACH OTHER OFF AT THE KNEES."

ROBERT REDFORD

Many of the films this year starred big names such as Matt Dillon, Britney Murphy, Katie Holmes, Minnie Driver, Salma Hayek, and even music legend Bob Dylan (*Masked and Anonymous*). Sometimes it seemed that more attention was drawn towards the high celebrity count than the actual films. The festival used to be about breaking new talent through independent filmmaking prowess, rather than drawing undue attention through star power.

Some independent filmmakers have even rebelled against Sundance and created their own film festivals, which are more independent. NoDance Film Festival and Slamdance Film Festival are two festivals that happen in the Park City area during the weeks of Sundance. The films showcased at Slamdance and NoDance have considerably lower budgets and are nearly devoid of the star power that fuels so many big Sundance hits.

Slamdance claims that it's "strength lies in its accessibility and risky commitment to screen films by first-time filmmakers that might not otherwise be seen by large audiences." NoDance celebrates the alternative digital film culture, priding itself on being the first DVD-projected Film Festival. Many people were overheard to prefer the lesser-known festivals, and these were indeed more welcoming to both filmmakers and filmgoers, due to the absence of any pressure to impress the Hollywood bigwigs. People at these events could enjoy and celebrate the thing they love most: watching and making independent movies.



Sundance on a Student Budget

You might say, "You're crazy going to the Sundance Film Festival! You're a student. How can you afford it?" It's not that difficult, really. Any student backpacker will agree that it's only incredibly expensive if you make it incredibly expensive.

For us, making it cheap simply meant lowering our standards. The Sundance Film Festival takes place in Park City, a ski resort, which generally means that everything is overpriced. Here are some money-saving tips we discovered along the way:

Our roundtrip flight was relatively affordable (\$500). A useful tip: collect Airmiles. Get an Airmiles MasterCard, shop at Safeway, and just collect those suckers anyway you can. However, if you have a car, drive down there. The gas is cheaper than air travel in the long run, especially if you go with four or more people per car. You may miss more school, having to leave earlier so you can get there in time, but at least you have a free place to sleep.

And sleep is the most important thing you'll need if you plan on watching movies all day long. Park City hotels are really expensive (\$200-300 US per night) and hostels in Park City are pretty pricey too (\$80 US per person). We stayed at an old friend's house in Salt Lake City, and her hospitality saved us cash.

Staying in Salt Lake City is tough because Park City is 45 minutes away, so the most cost-effective way to Park City and back is airport shuttle. We bussed to the airport every morning at 5am, and then shuttled to Park City to our 8:30am show time. Another handy tip we used: sleeping in the airport. Bring something comfy, and sleep on the free airport floors and chairs. The airport staff will think you have a plane to catch in the morning, the fools.

ANOTHER HANDY TIP WE USED: SLEEPING IN THE AIRPORT. BRING SOMETHING COMFY, AND SLEEP ON AIRPORT FLOORS AND CHAIRS. THE AIRPORT STAFF WILL THINK YOU HAVE A PLANE TO CATCH IN THE MORNING, THE FOOLS.

To save food money at Sundance, bring a backpack and go to Walgreen's or Smith's and buy food there. Restaurants in Park City are expensive, and candy and popcorn at the movies are standard theatre snack prices (read: expensive). This way, you can eat whatever you want, whenever you want, and won't be questioned because people think you have a backpack because you're a traveller, which of course, you are.

Past Sundance Flicks You May Be Familiar With

This year's winner of the Dramatic Film Award (or the "best picture" of the show) was a film adaptation of the comic book entitled *American Splendor* starring Paul Giamatti (*Private Parts*, *Big Fat Liar*) and Hope Davis (*About Schmidt*, *Hearts in Atlantis*).

What else has made it mark at Sundance? Here are some films that Sundanced their way into the world's heart:

- Girlfight (2000)
- You Can Count on Me (2000)
- Three Seasons (1999)
- The Kid Stays in the Picture (2002)
- Welcome to the Dollhouse (1996)
- The Brothers McMullen (1995)
- Blood Simple (1985)
- Public Access (1993)
- Ruby in Paradise (1993)
- Poison (1991)
- In the Soup (1992)
- Reservoir Dogs (1992)
- Run Lola Run (1998)
- Stranger than Paradise (1984)
- Do the Right Thing (1989)
- Sex, Lies, and Videotape (1989)
- Roger & Me (1989)
- Reservoir Dogs (1992)
- Like Water for Chocolate (1992)
- Hoop Dreams (1994)
- Four Weddings and a Funeral (1994)
- Spanking the Monkey (1994)
- Chuburn (1994)
- Homeless (1995)
- I Shot Andy Warhol (1996)
- Pi (1998)
- Blair Witch Project (1999)
- Chuck and Buck (2000)
- Memento (2000)
- Tadpole (2001)

Evolutionary Moments in Sundance

1978 Utah Film Commission founds the Utah United States Film Festival, the first national film festival in America. The goal is to bolster tourism while also showcasing independent American filmmakers. Emphasis on quality was placed on films outside of Hollywood tradition, and with lower budgets.

1981 Robert Redford founds an Institute called Sundance, which essentially becomes a project aimed at training and helping young, up-and-coming filmmakers learn the trade.

1982 A documentary category and a shorts category is officially added to the festival, marking a move towards more diverse film competition.

1984 Transitional year for the United States Film Festival. Due to struggling organizational and financial problems, Redford steps in and gives the Festival the organization, finances and contacts it needs to prosper. Big Red went even further by promoting the festival at an international level while retaining the focus on independent film.

1985 Emphasis placed on the international competition, with seven new Australian films alone.

1989 The Festival introduced two new awards: the Audience Award and the Filmmakers Trophy. Also a springboard year for media hype as Soderbergh's *Sex, Lies, and Videotape* starts a bidding war between studios. After this, Sundance becomes an event to make big Hollywood deals with distribution companies.

1991 The United States Film Festival officially renamed the Sundance Film Festival.

1994 Often revered as the "Golden Year" for Sundance, Gen-X spotlight with such notable films as *Reality Bites*, *Go Fish*, *Spanking the Monkey*, and *Clerks*.

1999 Year of the *Blair Witch*, becoming (at the time) the largest-grossing indie film in history. Also marks a transition in filmmaking, as many wannabe's grab their camcorders and go get lost in the woods. Not surprisingly, *Missing Children* reports record-breaking year.

2001 More new technologies prevail at Sundance with the emergence of the digital revolution. The Sundance Film Festival decides to digitally project films at screenings and place computers around the festival for filmgoers to use.

2003 Robert Redford expresses contempt for a certain virgin popstar referred to as "that bitch Spears," who draws attention away from the independent nature of the festival by showing up unannounced. Because of the sheer quantity of film execs, speculation is she's there to further her "acting career."

Currently Sundance is considered one of the top film festivals in the world along with Cannes, Venice and the Toronto Film Festival.

Some flicks that made a big splash at Sundance this year and have the potential to cause a stir nationwide include: *The Hebrew Hammer*, *The Station Agent*, *All the Real Girls*, *Thirteen*, *Dopamine*, *In America*, *Pieces of April*, *Capturing the Friedmans*, *Dog* (animated short), *Thirteen*, *Spun*, *Whale Rider*, *The Sea, Owning Mahoney*, *At the Quinte Hotel* (short film), *The Cooler*, and *Irreversible*.

Gateway Literary Contest

Do you like writing? How about unicorns, kittens, the Hungry-Hungry Hippos game, and Tony Danza? We here at the *Gateway* love all those things and that's why we're happy to announce this year's *Gateway* literary contest. If you've ever wanted to experience the sweet sweet glory of seeing your scrawlings permanently etched on thousands of pieces of newsprint, this is your chance. The contest is open to any student at the U of A who can mingle a few words and winners will be chosen by a crackpot panel of *Gateway* judges. Victorious submissions will be published in a future issue of this fine publication and we'll even throw in some fabulous (or kind of mediocre) prizes.

Categories

- 1 Short Fiction** (under 1500 words)
- 2 Really Short Fiction** (under 100 words)
- 3 Poetry** (Free-verse or not)

- 4 Photo** (A picture is worth 1000 words. Take a snapshot of something.)

Entries will be judged for creativity and style. All pieces must be original content that has not been previously published and not offensive or discriminatory in approach. You can enter once per category, but in as many categories as you like. If you have questions, feel free to contact us. The contest closes 1 March, 2003 so get your write on and send your creations to us at features@gateway.ualberta.ca or drop them off at our office on the third floor of SUB in the Features mail box. Please include your name and e-mail address. Unfortunately, entries will not be returned. Please submit only hard copy prints of photos.

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SOCIAL INTERCOURSE

Anne-Marie Miéville Retrospective

The Metro Cinema

7-10 February at 7pm

Although she worked closely with Jean-Luc Godard, Anne-Marie Miéville hasn't had nearly as much exposure as the father of the French New Wave.

Miéville's independent work is notable for its strong feminist outlook and blend of French and Swedish film styles. In 2001, four of her most accomplished works were presented as a collection at the Rotterdam Film Festival.

Metro Cinema is showing the collection this weekend starting with *My Favourite Story* (*Mon cher sujet*) on Friday.



A CLOSE FAMILY in *My Favourite Story*.

Campbell Brothers

The Winspear Centre
Friday, 7 February at 8pm

Can you say Hallelujah? I can't hear you. I said: can you say Hallelujah?

Well, get practicing. The Campbell Brothers are coming to town and they're bringing their unique Sacred Steel gospel style. Sacred Steel mixes the sweet sounds of gospel with the distinctive melodies of the steel guitar, the basis for the electric guitar. Steel guitar differs from standard Spanish guitar mainly because it's played horizontally with a sliding steel bar.

Despite the group's name, the band spans more than just the four Campbells. Two female vocalists back the brothers up, and one skinny white bass player rounds out the mix.



The Campbell Brothers—not just brothers.

Carlos del Junco

St Basil's Cultural Centre
Friday, 7 February at 8pm

For those who forget the rhythm 'n blues part of R&B, Carlos del Junco is ready to help you remember. Born in Havana, Cuba, del Junco's family left the island when he was one year old.

While growing up in Canada, he focused on a visual arts career before deciding that music was more to his liking. "Music is just a different way of creating textures and shapes," he says on his website.

Del Junco brandishes the ten-hole harmonica as his instrument of choice, which he plays using a difficult "overblow" method.

A Cuban entry without a single cigar reference. I love me.

DANIEL KASZOR
Circulation Manager



THIS ISN'T J.I.F.-FY POP It's funk and soul, kids. Jay Cairns, Ian Alleyne, and Fred Brenton comprise a music style only choosey fans would choose.

Choosey fans should choose soulful funk

J.i.f.

Velvet Lounge
10041 - 170 Street
Thursday, 6 February

SARAH "HATER" HOYLES
Arts & Entertainment Writer

When you think of funk or soul music, you usually don't think of a prairie city like Edmonton.

But for J.i.f., B-town makes perfect sense. They don't need to worry about breaking into an established scene; rather they're a part of the cultivation of a particular musical landscape within the city and province. This, in turn, puts focus on J.i.f. as part of "the cream of the soul crop" in this burgeoning metropolis.

J.i.f.'s history begins with a duo simply called i.f., comprised of Ian Alleyne, originally from Montréal, and Fred Brenton of Calgary; both also played in the six-member band, the Hi-Phonics.

In August 2001, the make-up of both the Hi-Phonics and i.f. were modified when hometown boy Jay Cairns joined both groups.

An obvious name change transpired, and i.f. morphed into J.i.f., exercising the KISS principle (Keep It Simple Stupid) to ensure easy access of the band for interested listeners.

With the split of the Hi-Phonics in late 2002, Alleyne, Cairns and Brenton were able to concentrate all their energies on the trio. When asked about the change, Cairns simply replied, "Why complicate things?"

This transition thrust the songwriting talents and evocative voice of Alleyne to the forefront of the band. "The Ian portions are now at 100 per cent," says Cairns.

Alleyne injects what Cairns describes as a "retro feel, with a positive, contemporary message" into the tunes of J.i.f., while Brenton's percussion and Jay Cairns' deep bass pulse round out the sound.

The three artists are admitted sponges, as they employ their lifetimes of musical exposure in their own musical creations. They're continually influenced by anything with any groove, Cairns says. "[We're] a sensitive rhythm section with a contemporary edge."

The band is steadily gathering momentum with plans to record an album in the next few months. This gathering momentum is also apparent in their live shows. For audience and musicians alike, the music is a trip—a vast journey without moving locales, filled with hills and valleys punctuated with fervent and ecstatic melody.

It's more than making money, feeding the commercial cow, or selling beers (although having a beer can't hurt the funk).

J.i.f. is focused on making and performing soulful tunes that both the band and listeners can dig. And that means eking out a soulful sound for Edmontonians.

Col. Hogan's sex life is now a biography

Autofocus

Directed by Paul Schrader
Starring Greg Kinnear, Willem Dafoe, Rita Wilson,
and Maria Bello
Princess Theatre
Open Friday, 7 January

JAMES ELPORD
Arts & Entertainment Writer

The strange tale of Bob Crane's descent into a Bacchanalian world of sex and voyeurism seems like perfect fodder for trash TV's scandal-hungry celebrity obsession. It has everything: a handsome star, lurid tales of lust, and murder. It seems quite the accomplishment to take this tabloid headline and turn it into an interesting and tragic film about a man and his obsession.

While Bob Crane (Greg Kinnear) was best known for his role as Colonel Hogan, his most interesting screen work was the reams of pornographic movies he shot starring himself and any woman who could woo him with his minor celebrity status.

When not outwitting Germans on television, Crane trolled clubs and parties for women with his partner in crime, John Carpenter (Willem

Dafoe), a habit that eventually consumed more and more of his time.

The film follows the evolution of Crane's unusual hobby and how it affected his life—from his early days as a clean-cut family man, to the growing struggle between his desires, his failing career, and his eventual murder.

However, the film concentrates on the odd dynamic between Crane and Carpenter. It's a strange relationship based on a strange hobby and Crane's ability to pick up women. While the friendship seems somewhat awkward and forced at first, Kinnear and Dafoe manage to hold it together until it develops into a more relaxed and natural pairing.

Kinnear plays Crane as a likeable, relatively pleasant fellow, who just happens to develop a sexual addiction. Still, there's a struggle between his public career and concerns for his family and his personal sexual habits. Nowhere is this more apparent than in the hilarious scene when Crane hallucinates that he has to choose between gangbanging his mistress with Colonel Klink and Sergeant Schultz, or going back to his wife and children.

In contrast, Dafoe's Carpenter is a creepy little sexual parasite, living off what Crane can provide and whose only chance to overcome his

own awkwardness and lewdness is his fading technical expertise. Together the two make an odd pairing, but, like the rest of the supporting cast and the fantastic period décor and costumes, they manage to make Crane's colourful life come alive.

Autofocus offers an intriguing look into the colourful life of a man whose obsession cost him so much, mixing an underlying darkness with moments of humour and a strange aloofness that almost makes the audience feel like voyeurs themselves.

However, as much as it reveals about Crane, it leaves a number of questions unanswered. While the film wisely avoids speculating on Crane's murderer, it would have been nice to get a deeper examination of what drove Crane's consuming urges. While much is communicated in the film, the question of "why" still seems like it wasn't completely answered.

Then again, maybe it isn't possible to fully justify Crane's actions. After all, he did what he did because he liked it and he could get away with it given the spirit of the time. While everyone may not have appreciated it, Crane doesn't seem to be a fundamentally bad guy. As he states in the film, "I don't drink, I don't smoke... Two out of three ain't bad."

Bored? Try Eastern Westerns

ADAM
HOUSTONA&E
Commentary

Resident film nut takes us on a journey through the dark recesses of the kung fu B-movie filmscape, from the '60s to the present—and he isn't even ashamed of himself

**THE ONEkick** Kung fu hero Jet Li vaults into the air in *The One*.

So you're off to the cinema to stay home to watch reruns of Baywatch Nights. But suppose the escapades of Misters Chan and Wilson in jolly old England don't satisfy your desire for an old-fashioned East-Meets-Western? What then, pardner? Here's a list of Marshall Cooper/Martial Arts hybrids to keep you riding tall in the saddle.

Red Sun

Charles Bronson! Toshiro Mifune! Japan's greatest actor teams up with America's least-attractive leading man! Could this be what started the sold-couple action genre? Plus, Ursula Andress gets naked, which will totally appeal to your dad.

The Stranger and the Gunfighter

Classic western character actor Lee Van Cleef joins forces with a member of the infamous kung fu posse, the Five Deadly Venoms, in one of those films involving treasure maps tattooed on naked chicks. Throughout the late '60s and early '70s, the Italians were known for making great Westerns. This may not be one of them, but Shanghai Noon's villain is named after Van Cleef in homage.

Fighting Fists of Shanghai Joe & The Return of Shanghai Joe

Two different actors play Shanghai Joe, and Klaus Kinski plays different bad guys in the respective outings

of this illustrious series. It's the kind of thing Tarantino would recommend but that you should probably never, ever watch.

Kung Fu...[ad nauseum]

David Carradine pretends to be Oriental in order to team up with himself and spread his doctrine of peace by feebly flicking his legs at underpaid stuntmen. The original series was lame. The movie was lame. Heck, the second series remains lame on Showcase most weekday mornings.

Once Upon a Time in China and America

Jet Li returns to the role of Chinese folk hero Wong Fei-Hong in part six of the

long-running series. He heads west, loses his memory, and gets adopted by a bunch of white surfer dudes painted up to look like Indians.

He then proceeds to kick a lot of people in a lot of impeccably choreographed ways. Director Sammo Hung reportedly had a falling out with longtime collaborator Jackie Chan over this film; Jackie said he'd had the idea first. No word on who claims credit for a witty title like *Shanghai Noon*.

I suppose if you don't want to rent anything, you could always try to track down that two-part crossover between Martial Law and Walker, Texas Ranger.

There are, God help us, 195 episodes of Walker, so I hope you labelled your tapes carefully. Happy trails, pilgrim.

Texas Blood Money answers only to their fans

Local rock group well aware that, to succeed, they need to be business savvy, and loyal to their fans

Texas Blood Money
with *Mammooth and Gate Powerplant*
Saturday, 8 February

BORIS KULISIC
Arts & Entertainment Writer

They go by the name of Texas Blood Money.

The name doesn't come from the sequel of *From Dusk Till Dawn*, a Tarantino flick, but from Alberta's dependence on oil as its major export for keeping the economy above water.

Their style of rock falls along the lines of Corosion of Conformity covering Pink Floyd. The music is chalk full of energy and emotion, and is said to have transferred very well from the studio to the stage, coming from those who've seen Texas Blood Money perform live.

In the relaxed atmosphere of a local cafe, guitars (and Guns 'n' Roses superfan) Ryan Ramsdell and bassist Aaron Henke explain that the energy on stage stems from their confidence in the music—really showing they care about it.

"When we go onstage, we show the crowd what the music does to us," says Henke. "Hopefully it gets them going, because then you know they're really into it and you can feed off that to make the show that much better."

And it doesn't hurt to have a very vigilant manager (Lindsay Wright), who shares their dream for the band. Wright books the shows and has been helping the band get some exposure on CJRS, and on the Bear's weekly up-and-comers program, Red, White and New.

Texas Blood Money's break-out show might be just one performance away, and that's something you wouldn't want to miss.

CULTURA OBSCURA

The Joy of Solo Sex



The Joy of Solo Sex and More Joy: An Advanced Guide to Solo Sex

PHILIP HEAD
Arts & Entertainment Writer

You've got to hand it to Dr Litten; most authors would think solo sex a hard subject to handle. Dr Litten has risen to the occasion, however, and provides a penetrating look at all aspects of "creative touching".

A quick search of the Edmonton Public Library's reveals several books devoted to self love, but only Dr Litten's is devoted exclusively to men. Whether men have a firmer grasp on the subject or can come to grips with the subject matter more easily, the long and short of it is that men are clearly not represented equally in the literature.

So if you want lists of what shouldn't be stuck up your ass, the most common types of penile piercings, or the pros and cons of various lubes, this book will definitely grab you.

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Alberta LEARNERS



BAND OF BRASS is going to "knock off your socks" with movie tunes this weekend.

Mining the talents of brass players

Mill Creek Colliery Band

The Colliery Band goes to Hollywood
McDougall United Church,
10025 101 Street
7 February at 7:30pm
Festival Place, 100 Festival Way,
Sherwood Park
9 February at 7pm

ANNA ROZWADOWSKA
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Normally, you wouldn't associate brass instruments like the trumpet, tuba or cornet with *Harry Potter* or *James Bond*. But Edmonton's Mill Creek Colliery Band is about to change your outlook on movie music.

The band, formed in 1995 by Scott Whetham, principal tuba player for the ESO, originally had eleven players. It wasn't until late 2001 that they established themselves as a traditional brass band of 25 players, and in 2002, presented their real first concert at Convocation Hall with conductor Malcolm Forsyth. John Farmer, tuba player and treasurer of the band, who played in the top section of his brass band in Britain and performed in the

National Brass Band Championships, joined the band later on.

The Mill Creek Colliery band derives its name from the Mill Creek neighbourhood in Edmonton, an important coal mining community in the early days of the city. The name has partial heritage in the working-class backgrounds of brass band players during the Industrial Revolution (the instruments were relatively cheap and one could easily learn to play them).

"It's also more to do with a nod at the industrial patronage that you would find with British brass bands," notes Farmer.

"So there were philanthropic companies that would build villages, that would build schools, build parks, and some of them would also sponsor brass bands."

In December 2002, the band, along with the Greenwood singers and conductor Derek Broadbent, co-presented *The Music of Christmas: Voices and Bells and Brass at the Winspear*, which was a huge success. The band had established itself by then and had worked with a number of well-known conductors, whose presence was inte-

gral to the sound of the band.

"It's sometimes likened to an organist, who has the keys in front of him, and the sound it comes out is all in harmony and balance. The conductor of a brass band is very much like that," explained Farmer.

As the band is composed of players from different backgrounds, the conductor becomes a unifying agent.

"It's the quality that comes out," suggests Farmer. "I mean, if you have 25 good, quality players, and you can bring them together, it really does knock off your socks."

For the second set in the 2002/03 concert series, the band will be working with English conductor Kevin Norbury, Director of Music at the Salvation Army in Toronto and composer of popular pieces such as *Odyssey* and *Flourish and Dances*. They will be performing themes from popular movies such as *Harry Potter*, *James Bond* and *The Lion King*, and the band hopes to show that brass band music is all around us in popular culture.

"There's just a huge depth and breadth of musical references and you can't fail to be entertained."



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**Morphine**

The Best of Morphine, 1992–1995
Rykodisc
www.morphine3.com

SWEETCHEVYNE
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Four years after the death of Morphine founder Mark Sandman, remaining members Billy Conway and Dana Colley are on the cusp of releasing *The Best of Morphine, 1992–1995*, a compilation of "favourites." B-side and previously unreleased material.

A band characterized by the fervent adoration of their fan base, Morphine refuses to fade away. This album is the third posthumous release since the collapse of the group after Sandman's untimely passing.

The sound is unconventionally dark, considering the core was formed by a sliding two-string bass (the musical invention of Sandman), a baritone saxophone and a set of drums. Sandman's voice lends sorrow and mystery to the music, making this record intriguing if nothing else.

Aimed at those already familiar with the music, *Best of...* will satiate their appetites and, perhaps, convince those unfamiliar with Morphine.



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3. Richard Buckner *Impasse*
4. Indian Police *World War 4*
5. Washboard Hank *Hoorah for Washboard Hank*
6. Cuff the Duke *Life Stories for Minimum Wage*
7. Atomic 7 Covers by Edith Head
8. Paul Bromley *Title Unknown*
9. Flunk For Sleepyheads Only
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All or Nothing? Nothing

All or Nothing
Directed by Mike Leigh
Starring Timothy Spall,
and Lesley Manville
Metro Cinema
7–9 February at 9pm

ALEX KONYE
Arts & Entertainment Writer

The title of this movie reminds me of a nerve response: if a stimulus is greater than the absolute threshold, an action potential will occur, and a signal will register—*All or Nothing*.

Sure, there's a lot of grey in the world, (a good movie would want to make that point), but I'm lazy, and I can't help looking at things in terms of black & white; any additional thought would waste valuable novel gazing. Director Mike Leigh (*Topsy-Turvy*) is pressuring me: love it, or leave it. Since I've already expended some thought on the matter, I'll conclude up front that the movie does not pass muster.

I enjoy a funeral romp as much as your average morose film buff, but this was just plain boring.

Analysing the story with convenience, if superficial, parallels, my ire concerning the blackness (read: bleakness) of the flick only intensifies. Is there any action? A resounding no; your ADHD-addled inner-child will throw tantrums and ask a thousand times to go jump on a bed. You wanna talk potential? Yes, this movie had it; dysfunction is stimulating fodder for contemplation/discussion.

The story revolves around a family living in a London tenement, dealing with their lower-class lot. Timothy Spall (Tom Cruise's drunken lawyer in *Vanilla Sky*) plays a feckless cab driver

in the depths of depression. He's married to Penny, an effete checkout clerk. Their relationship strains, and is about to buckle. But a crisis brings the family back from the brink.

Everyone in the movie is, in varying degrees, pathetic. The indolent husband, his wilted flower, their two overweight kids (the daughter works with incontinent elders; the son is a rampaging bully), alcoholic neighbours on the left, and unwed/pregnant friends on the right, all compete for your pathos dollars.

I enjoy a funeral romp as much as your average morose film buff, but this was just plain boring. The characters' internal monologue (Spall pulls off a pretty good "thousand-yard stare") after they confront one another with their abnormal ticks for social betterment. Nothing works for them of course: they are desperate losers; we get it. Leigh spends so much time digging these characters into a hole, and beating their wretchedness over your head, he doesn't allow for proper redemption. I don't believe for one second things will turn out for these people.

Some reddit comes from two scenes that were just perceptively funny. There's an allusion to the super-memory of London cabbies: our man is describing where he is ("Yeah, I'm right next to that Chinese market") on the way to meet Penny while she's breaking down over the aforementioned tragedy. And a scene at the powder-keg dinner table: after a meal, their son drops his plate, declares the meal "shit," waddles over to the couch, and flops down to his TV program—funny like an audience reaction after Letterman repeats a fizzled joke for the fifteenth time. Any moment of true empathy is crushed under the blitz of sadness.

If I were you, I'd ask whoever's insisting on seeing this movie to pony up an import beer for my escorting (read: relational) duties.

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OLD SCHOOL

We're supposed to look back on our university years as the **best times of our lives**. With that in mind, it should be mentioned that some people have trouble **letting go** of those days. Enter Luke Wilson, Will Ferrell, and Vince Vaughn, in a bid to **recapture** their lost **youth**, this trio of **tricksters** kick it *Old School*. The result? A **hilarious** comedy of course. What does any of this have to do with you? It's called **movie passes**, friends. The Gateway wants to send you to the screening of *Old School* on **Wednesday, 12 February at SilverCity**. And you get to go a full week and a half before the film is released on Friday, 14 February.

All you have to do is come up to the Gateway offices on **3-04 SUB** and tell the Entertainment Editor about the **horors** of your first day of **university**. A great story scores you **ridicule** and a **double-guest pass**. Have at you gentle reader!

THE GATEWAY
KICKIN' IT OLD SKOOL SINCE 1910

*film subject to classification

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Value:	\$1625 which covers tuition fees, instructional materials, meals and accommodation for a five-week course
Number:	Variable
Conditions:	Candidates must be Canadian citizens or permanent residents; have completed at least grade 11, or be at the postsecondary level by the time the course begins; and have been a full-time student for at least one semester during the 2002/2003 school year.
Apply:	Applications are available at the Student Awards Office, I-80 SUB.
Deadline:	15 February 2003

DR. HORST A SCHMID TRAVEL BURSARY

Value:	\$500 to \$1500
Number:	Variable

Conditions:	To be awarded to University of Alberta undergraduate students to aid in the costs of travel on an international academic exchange based on satisfactory academic achievement, financial need, and past travel experience. The institution the student plans to attend must be one with which there is a formal U of A ongoing exchange (consult the International Centre for a list of formal U of A student exchanges).
Apply:	Applications are available at the Student Awards Office, I-80 SUB, and the International Centre, 172 HUB International.
Deadline:	1 June 2003

SANDY MACTAGGART AWARD

Value:	\$25,000
Number:	One

Conditions:	Awarded annually to a University of Alberta undergraduate or graduate student to assist him/her in undertaking study abroad for one year in the Orient as part of a University of Alberta program. The award is given to a candidate who has balanced competence after financial need. Applicants must have satisfactory academic standing to apply. The successful candidate will show demonstrated ability to benefit from pursuing academic studies in the Orient, show an interest in learning more about Oriental peoples and cultures, and show an interest in fostering international understanding.
Apply:	Applications are available at the Student Awards Office, I-80 SUB.
Deadline:	18 February 2003

UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD MUIRHEAD EXCHANGE AWARD

Value:	\$1500 per year
Number:	3

Conditions:	Candidates must be University of Alberta undergraduate students, have a minimum 6.4 cumulative GPA, have completed one full year of studies at the U of A prior to starting the exchange, and be nominated by the U of A to participate in an international exchange with the University of Sheffield.
Apply:	Applications are available at the Student Awards Office, I-80 SUB, and the International Centre, 172 HUB International.
Deadline:	15 February 2003

DEAN'S UNDERGRADUATE CITATIONS

Business/Education

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Deadline:	1 March 2003

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Value:	\$12,500 over four years (Medicine)
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Apply:	Applications are available at the Student Awards Office, I -80 SUB.
Deadline:	1 March 2003

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Value:	\$2000 for one term; \$4000 for full year
Number:	Variable

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Apply:	Applications are available at the Student Awards Office, I-80 SUB, and the International Centre, 172 HUB International.
Deadline:	15 February 2003

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Field of Study: All disciplines, except translation, are eligible.

Value: \$5,000 plus travel costs

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Conditions:	Candidates must be Canadian citizens or permanent residents and be currently enrolled in the second or third year of their first undergraduate university program. Candidates must have sufficient ability in their second official language to pursue their studies in that language. In addition to having good academic standing, candidates must also be well motivated and adaptable. Preference will be given to candidates who wish to study at another educational institution, in a milieu in which their second official language is predominant.
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Apply:	Applications are available at the Student Awards Office, I-80 SUB.

Deadline: 21 March 2003



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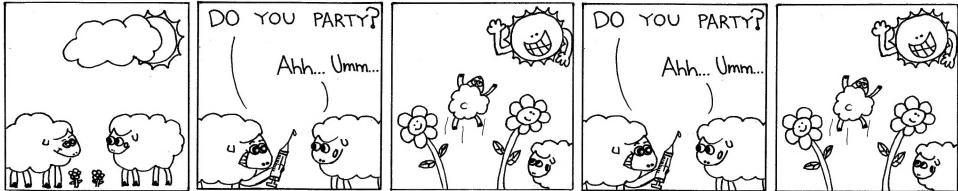
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GATEWAY VOLUNTEERS**

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[Mind Meld...]

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